

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



FISCAL NOTE

HB 321 - SB 855

March 23, 2009

SUMMARY OF BILL: Grants foster parents the authority to request a formal review by the Department of Children's Services (DCS) if the parent feels that an employee of DCS has failed to follow Departmental procedures and harm could have come to the child. DCS must submit copies of all requests and responses to the Commission on Children and Youth within 10 days from the date of the written response by DCS. DCS must submit a plan for training employees of the provisions of the bill by October 1, 2009 to the Select Committee on Children and Youth.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

**Increase State Expenditures - \$2,000/One-Time
\$100,200/Recurring**

Increase Federal Expenditures - \$23,000

Assumptions:

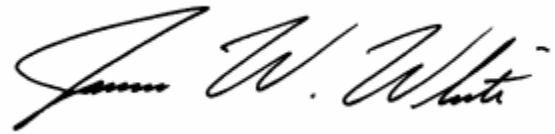
- DCS estimates the need for an additional position to receive the requests from foster parents and complete the in-person review within 30 days of the request. The position will result in an increase in expenditures of \$57,096 which includes salary (\$34,400), benefits (\$11,696), and communications, networking, travel and supplies (\$11,000).
- Of the total increase of \$57,096, seven percent (\$3,997) will be Title IV-E Federal funds; 45 percent (\$25,693) will be through TennCare; and \$27,406 in state funds.
- Of the TennCare funds, \$6,645 is state funds at a 25.862 percent match rate and \$19,048 is federal funds at a 74.138 percent match rate.
- The proposed legislation does not identify the responsibility of the Commission on Children and Youth after receiving copies of the requests and responses between the foster parent and DCS. The Commission estimates the need for one position to review the complaints and responses and provide ombudsman services when necessary.

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- The position will result in an increase in recurring expenditures of \$66,143 which includes salary (\$45,629), benefits (\$15,514), and communications, networking, travel and supplies (\$5,000). There will be a one-time increase in expenditures of \$2,000 for a computer and initial supplies.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James W. White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" and last name "White" clearly legible, and "W." in the middle.

James W. White, Executive Director

/kml